(b) and (c) The quantum of foodgrains lifted in February, 1994 for PDS is higher than in the corresponding period in 1993, despite increase in the Central Issue Prices of foodgrains effected from 1-2-94. Levy sugar lifting is nearly 100%. Lifting of foodgrains through PDS is dependent on availability and prices of rice, wheat and coarse grains in the open market.

(d) Yes, Sir. The estimated population in identified areas under RPDS Blocks (numbering 1752) is around 165 million.

(e) Information received from the State Governments and U.T. Administrations indicate that many State Governments are not making the allocations of foodgrains as per projected requirements for the RPDS areas due to various constraints. However, the per capita offtake of foodgrains in RPDS areas is higher than in non-RPDS areas.

(f) As part of the RPDS scheme, State Governments/UT Administrations agreed to undertake distribution of additional commodities of mass consumption through the Fair Price Shops (FPS) according to local consumer needs and preferences. A number of States/UTs have reported distribution of iodised salt, tea, soaps and pulses through the FPSs in RPDS areas. The Advisory Council on PDS in its meetings reviews the progress in implementation of the RPDS.

(g) and (h) The entire country is covered by the Public Distribution System and the total population is eligible to PDS benefits.

**P.D.S. facility only for needy people**

4247. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA :

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to provide facility only to needy people through public distribution system in the country ;

(b) if so, whether any scheme has been formulated or whether Government have fixed criteria for the classification of needy people ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the time by which the decision will be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) The Advisory Council on Public Distribution System (PDS) in its meeting held in March, 1993 set up a Committee of State Ministers for formulating recommendations regarding a National Policy on PDS focussing on the need to ensure larger and more meaningful quantities of PDS commodities to the needy and deserving sections of the society. One of the recommendations made by the Committee of State Ministers is as follows :—

> "In order to ensure that larger and more meaningful quantities of foodgrains reach the relatively needy and poorer sections, it is inescapable that the relatively better off sections of the population are excluded from access to the PDS in respect of foodgrains."

So far, the Government has not taken any decision on the report of the Committee of Ministers and it is not possible to give any specific time frame for taking a decision since several aspects have to be considered in consultation with State Governments.

**सुपर बाजार और केंद्रीय भंडार के मध्य वस्तुओं के मूल्य और उनकी गुणवत्ता में अन्तर**

4248. **श्रीमती चन्द्रिका अभिनन्दन जैन** : क्या नागरिक आपूर्ति, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) अप्रैल, 1991 से 31 दिसम्बर, 1993 तक की अवधि के दौरान क्रमशः सुपर बाजार और केन्द्रीय भंडार को वस्तुओं के मूल्यों और उनकी गुणवत्ता के सम्बन्ध में उपभोक्ताओं से कितनी शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि सुपर बाजार में वस्तुओं का विक्रय मूल्य केन्द्रीय भंडार की तुलना में कम है जबकि वहां पर बेची जाने वाली वस्तुओं की गुणवत्ता में प्रायः कोई अन्तर नहीं होता है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

(घ) इस पर सरकार ने अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की है; और